

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a packet network, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

processing a message in a standardized interface, the message including an indicia; and
identifying a packet application in response to the indicia.

2. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A1 interface.

3. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A3 interface.

4. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A5 interface.

5. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A7 interface.

6. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A9 interface.

7. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A10 interface.

8. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A11 interface.

9. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a control plane packet application.

10. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a bearer packet application.

11. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a push-to-talk packet application.

12. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a Voice-over-IP packet application.

13. (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a delay-sensitive packet application.

14-21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A method of operating a packet network, the method comprising:

processing a message in a standardized interface, the message including an indicia indicating a packet application to be transported across the interface;

identifying the packet application in response to the indicia;

distinguishing a first type of content in the packet application from a second type of content in the packet application; and

treating the first type of content differently from the second type of content.

23. (New) The method of Claim 22, further comprising raising a priority level associated with the first type of content.

24. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the first type of content is a signaling packet and the second type of content is a payload packet.

25. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the first type of content is a control place packet and wherein the second type of content is a bearer packet.